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Applicant: Victor M. Ilyashenko
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Karen M. O'Angeli
Signature

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Before the first action in the above-referenced application, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at line 3 on page 1 and replace with the following:

A2 Sub B This application is a national stage application, claiming priority to International Application No. PCT/US98/12295 filed 12 June 1998, which claims priority to U.S. Serial No. 08/873,952, filed June 12, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,086,999 issued July 11, 2000.

Remarks

This is a preliminary amendment in which the Applicants have amended the specification to indicate priority data.